

STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 99-387

June 22, 1999

WORLDCOM NETWORK SERVICES, INC.
Request to Abandon Service

ORDER GRANTING
REQUEST TO ABANDON
SERVICE

WELCH, Chairman; NUGENT and DIAMOND, Commissioners

On June 8, 1999, MCI WorldCom, Inc. filed a letter describing an extensive reorganization of several of its operating subsidiaries. Notwithstanding the approval requirement provisions of 35-A M.R.S.A. § 707, approval of these reorganizations is not required because of the waiver provisions contained in Chapter 280, § 12 of the Commission's rules. However, MCI WorldCom states that one of its subsidiaries, WorldCom Network Services, Inc. (WNS) will terminate service. Under 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1104, the Commission must approve the abandonment of service by a public utility, and we consider MCI WorldCom's letter as a request that we grant that approval.

WorldCom Network Services, Inc. (WNS) was authorized to provide interexchange service in Docket No. 91-300. WNS serves wholesale customers. In support of its request to abandon, WNS states that an affiliated Company, MCI WorldCom Network Services, Inc. (MCIWNS), will provide wholesale service to WNS's current customers. MCIWNS is presently known as MCI Telecommunications Corp. (MCIT), but its name will be changed after the reorganization. MCIT received authority to provide interexchange service in Docket No. 91-132. WNS states that MCIWNS will adopt and rename the current WNS Tariff PUC No. 1.

The request of to abandon service is granted, as MCIWNS will continue to serve WNS's customers at WNS's existing rates and because there are a large number of competitive telephone utilities available to provide service to WNS's former customers.

Section 1104 allows the Commission to impose reasonable conditions or requirements on the abandonment of service. In cases where one carrier has transferred its customer base to another carrier that has different rates, we have required notice of the changes to the affected customers. Such notice is not necessary in this case.

MCIWNS is not under any legal obligation to continue to provide any particular level of rates to the former customers of WNS. As required by 35-A M.R.S.A. § 307, however, it must provide 30 days notice to the Commission of any rate change. In addition, MCIWNS must provide notice to its customers, as required by Chapter 280, § 10 of an increase in any rates that is 20% or more (or cumulatively over the past year equal to 20% or more).

MCIWNS shall refile WNS's Tariff PUC No. 1 under its own name.

Therefore, we

O R D E R

1. That the petition of WorldCom Network Services, Inc. to abandon service is granted; WorldCom Network Services, Inc. shall abandon service effective on the date of the transfer of its customer accounts to MCI WorldCom Services, Inc. and following approval of MCI WorldCom Services, Inc.'s Tariff PUC No. 1.
2. MCI WorldCom Services, Inc. shall file a Tariff PUC No. 1 that is substantively identical to the Tariff PUC No. 1 of WorldCom Network Services, Inc. Pursuant to Chapter 110, § 1303, the Director of Technical Analysis is authorized to approve that tariff.

Dated at Augusta, Maine this 22ND day of June, 1999.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Raymond Robichaud
Assistant Administrative Director

COMMISSIONERS VOTING FOR: Welch
 Nugent
 Diamond